industry, supporting infrastructure, policy framework etc. During 1997-98 exports were affected due to factors such as general slow-down in world trade and especially the recession in many countries in South East Asia, Japan and Germany; supply side constraints in some sectors, erosion of competitiveness and slow industrial growth.

(c) During April-March, 1996-97 exports registered a growth rate of 5.3% in dollar terms and 11.7% in rupee terms.

(d) Export Promotion Measures are continuously being taken by the Government through changes in policies and procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of State in export promotion and in consultation with trade and industry, The Government is according high priority to exports and all necessary steps are being taken to put exports on a high growth trajectory.

India's Share in Export of Spices

2143. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage share of India in World Trade of Spices; and

(b) the promotional schemes envisaged to increases export of spices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a)The percentage share of India in world trade of spices in 1997-98 is 48.6% in quantity and 24.2% in value terms.

(b) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance export of spices include abolition of cess on export of pepper (except green pepper in brine), cardamom, saffron and spice oils and oleoresins to make them price competitive in the overseas markets; implementation of brand promotion schemes like "Logo Promotion"; grant of "Spice House Certificate" as a recognition of processer/exporter of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

India's Stand at WTO's Geneva meeting.

2144. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of India's stand on different issues raised in the recently held Geneva meeting of WTO?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below)

Statement

In the Second Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation held in Geneva on 18-20th May, 98, India forcefully articulated its view that existing Agreements arising out of the Uruguay Round should be effective implemented so as to ensure that benefits of the multilateral trading system flow to all countries particularly developing countries like India. It was conveyed in unambiguous terms that trade must be a tool for development in tune with the basic aim of the Uruguay Round negotiations.

India expressed its concern regarding inadequate market access in textiles, problems in the implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture, unilateral action by developed countries disregarding GATT provisions, imbalances in the TRIPs Agreement, the proliferation of regional trade arrangements not complementary or consistent with the GATT rules, repeated use of anti-dumping measures and countervailing duties, protectionist non-tafirr measures by certain developed countries and inadequate implementation of Special & Differeential provisions for developing countries, as set out in different WTO Agreements. With regard to Electronic Commerce, India emphasised that the work programme should clearly define the scope of electronic commerce and analyse its implications, with the General Council paying close attention to the issue of transfer of technology relating to electronic commerce so as to ensure that the benefits of